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REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

On the bill to be entitled "An Act to compensate the Marshals and their Assistants, for taking the census in 1860, in those States now forming the Southern Confederacy."

The Committee of Ways and Means, to which was referred the bill to be entitled "An Act to compensate the Marshals and their Assistants, for taking the census in 1860, in those States now forming the Southern Confederacy," have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report thereon:

The bill proposes to provide compensation to Marshals and their Assistants for services rendered in taking the census in 1860, under appointments made by the United States. The services were rendered to the United States, and the right to compensation from that Government had accrued before the secession of the Confederate States.

The question presented by the bill then, is simply this: Is there any obligation upon the Government of the Confederate States, to assume and pay for services rendered to the United States, by persons at the time of the rendition of such service, belonging to the United States, but since the separation, forming a part of the Confederate States?

The Committee in considering this question, have not had reference alone, to services rendered before the separation, by Marshals and their Assistants in taking the census of 1860, but have embraced in their examination other questions of a similar character, which may, and doubtless will arise, where citizens of the Confederate States may have had unsettled transactions with the Government of the United States at the time of the separation. If we acknowledge the principle, that because the States now composing the Confederacy derived some benefit and advantage from the taking of the census in 1860, that the Confederate States ought, therefore, to assume and pay a debt due from the United States, we establish a precedent, unsafe to the Treasury, and of questionable obligation.

Such a precedent would require the payment of all just claims held by citizens of the Confederate States against the Government of the

United States, for services rendered before the separation ; for in all such cases, it might, as well as in the present, be alleged that such services were, to some extent, beneficial to the Confederate States, while they formed a part of the United States.

Your Committee, therefore, recommend that the bill committed to them do not pass.

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AN ACT

Entitled An Act to compensate the Marshals and their Assistants, for taking the census in 1860, in those States now forming the Southern Confederacy.

WHEREAS, The Marshals and their assistants, appointed to take the census of the United States in the year eighteen hundred and sixty, and who performed that duty in those States, now comprising the Southern Confederacy, have not received from the United States Government the compensation due them. And, whereas, the States of this Confederacy are in possession of the original returns, deposited in each county or parish, and copies of which have been filed in the Comptroller's office, in each of said States, which returns are of great value to this Government—

SECTION 1. *The Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States do enact*, That the compensation due the Marshals and their Assistants as aforesaid, be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 2. Before payment shall be made under, and by virtue of this Act, the Marshals and their Assistants shall be required to produce to the Secretary of the Treasury a certified copy of the original census returns from their respective counties or parishes.



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